

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks. In the Office action mailed June 17, 2003, clarification is sought for drawing sheets 1-152. Additionally, claims 1-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Finally, claims 1-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,743,063 to Boozer, U.S. Patent No. 5,640,823 to Bergeron, U.S. Patent No. 5,129,204 to Palumbo, U.S. Patent No. 3,998,016 to Ting, and U.S. Patent No. 4,688,364 to Fiehler.

Drawings

Applicant respectfully points to lines 21-30 on page 30 of the specification. In that section of the specification, applicant describes drawings 1-152 as an "Appendix which contains a collection of unnumbered architectural/engineering drawings views, some of which have been employed in an extracted and focused fashion to create the specifically numbered drawings views mentioned above."

35 U.S.C. § 112

Applicant believes that all of the pending claims, as amended, comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112. As discussed in further detail below, the inventive concept of providing building components accommodating limited rotational and translation motions is particularly pointed out and distinctly claimed in amended claims 1-26. Structure and relationship between elements also have been recited in those claims. For example,

amended claim 1 recites (1) modular building components and (2) interconnect structures operatively associated with those components.

35 U.S.C. § 102

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 17, 18, and 19 to further clarify distinctions between the cited prior art and the claimed invention. Specifically, the amended claims recite that the building components (including interconnect structures, panel structures, or frame elements) of the claimed invention accommodate limited movement in different translational and rotational axes. That accommodation allows the claimed invention to better accommodate externally applied loads and environmental temperature changes as compared to the cited prior art.

The amendments to the claims are supported in the specification, for example, on page 23 where it says:

Focusing attention just for a minute again on the nature of the interconnection pictured especially in Fig. 18, one can see that this interconnection is designed in such a fashion that it will permit relative rotation, as for example within the plane of Fig. 18, between the associated integral components in the system, and additionally, can accommodate, within limited ranges, translational motion in all orthogonal directions. It is this feature of all the interconnect structures that form part of the present invention which produces the capability of interconnected components to move relative to one another by certain limited amounts, to accommodate the handling of matters such as externally applied loads and environmental temperature changes experienced by building 100.

In Figures 2A, 3, 4, 6-8, 10, and 15 in Boozer, the Examiner points to the slidable brackets. However, the slidable brackets in Boozer accommodate, at most, bi-axial

movement relative to each other. Thus, Boozer fails to teach or suggest building components that accommodate limited rotational and translational motions relative to each other.

In Figures 2 and 3 in Bergeron, the Examiner points to a vertical movement clip. However, the clip in Bergeron accommodates, at most, only vertical movement. Thus, Bergeron fails to teach or suggest building components that accommodate limited rotational and translational motions relative to each other.

In Figures 1 and 2 in Palumbo, the Examiner points to an integral metal stud. However, the stud in Palumbo accommodates, at most, only vertical movement. Thus, Palumbo fails to teach or suggest building components that accommodate limited rotational and translational motions relative to each other.

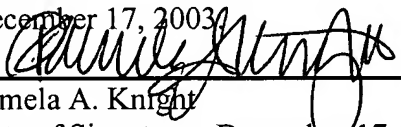
In Figures 1-26 in Ting, the Examiner points to a wall structure. However, the wall structure in Ting accommodates, at most, uni-axial movement relative to each other. Thus, Ting fails to teach or suggest building components that accommodate limited rotational and translational motions relative to each other.

In Figures 1-5 in Fiehler, the Examiner points to block forming units. However, the units in Fiehler accommodate, at most, bi-axial movement relative to each other. Thus, Boozer fails to teach or suggest building components that accommodate limited rotational and translational motions relative to each other.

For at least the above reasons, claims 1-26 are patentable and in condition for allowance. Please contact applicant's attorney if there are any additional issues to address.

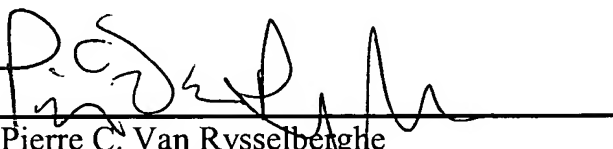
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Pamela A. Knight
Date of Signature: December 17, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

KOLISCH HARTWELL, P.C.


Pierre C. Van Rysselberghe
Registration No. 33,557
of Attorneys for Applicant
Customer PTO No. 23581
200 Pacific Building
520 SW Yamhill Street
Portland, Oregon 97204
Telephone: (503) 224-6655
Facsimile: (503) 295-6679